

## Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07

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FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2221

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L MBFR VIENNA 0332

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJ: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: JUNE 23 WESTERN PLENARY STATEMENT

AT THE 141ST PLENARY MEETING OF THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS HELD ON JUNE 23 UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF NETHERLANDS REP (DEVOS), BELGIAN REP (SMOLDEREN) DELIVERED THE ONLY FORMAL STATEMENT. IN IT, HE REVIEWED THE CONTENTS OF AGREEMENTS REACHED DURING THE PREPARATORY TALKS AS RECORDED IN THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE OF JUNE 28, 1973, IN COUNTERING EASTERN ATTEMPTS TO DISTORT THE MEANING OF THAT DOCUMENT TO SUPPORT THE EASTERN POSITION IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. THE MAIN POINTS OF THE BELGIAN PLENARY, THE FULL TEXT OF WHICH FOLLOWS BY AIRGRAM, WERE:

1. AT THE END OF THE PREPARATORY TALKS, THE PARTICIPANTS ISSUED  
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A COMMUNIQUE WHICH SET FORTH SOME GUIDELINES FOR THESE  
NEGOTIATIONS.

2. THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE WAS NOT INTENDED TO SUPPLY ANSWERS TO ALL THE PROBLEMS ARISING IN THE NEGOTIATIONS; ATTEMPTS TO DRAW MORE FROM THE COMMUNIQUE THAN IT CONTAINS ARE UNJUSTIFIED.

3. NONETHELESS, EASTERN PARTICIPANTS HAVE PERSISTENTLY SOUGHT TO READ MORE INTO THE COMMUNIQUE THAN IS ACTUALLY THERE.

4. THE TEXT OF THE COMMUNIQUE PROVIDED THE SUBJECT MATTER. A GENERAL OBJECTIVE AND ONE BASIC PRINCIPLE FOR THE FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS.

5. CONTRARY TO EASTERN ATTEMPTS TO EXTEND THE MEANING OF THE WORD "MUTUAL" AS IT APPEARS IN THE COMMUNIQUE, THAT TERM MEANS ONLY THAT REDUCTIONS SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT BY EASTERN AND WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS IN A MANNER MUTUALLY AGREED UPON.

6. THUS APPLICATION OF THE TERM "MUTUAL" IN ITSELF ENTAILS NEITHER SIMULTANEOUS REDUCTIONS NOR REDUCTIONS BY EQUAL NUMBERS OR PERCENTAGES.

7. NEITHER DOES THE COMMUNIQUE REQUIRE THE INCLUSION OF ALL FORCES AND ALL ARMAMENTS IN REDUCTIONS, BUT ONLY DEFINES FORCES AND ARMAMENTS IN CENTRAL EUROPE AS THE DOMAIN WITHIN WHICH AGREED REDUCTIONS WILL BE NEGOTIATED.

8. DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE COMMUNIQUE REFERS TO ASSOCIATED MEASURES, THE EAST, IN CONTRAST TO THE WEST, HAS MADE NO PROPOSALS FOR SUCH MEASURES.

9. THE WESTERN APPROACH COMPLIES WITH THE SINGLE AGREED CONFIDENTIAL

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PRINCIPLE THAT OF UNDIMINISHED SECURITY, IN THAT IT TAKES FULL ACCOUNT OF THE OUTCOME RESULTING FROM AN AGREEMENT, INCLUDING THE EFFECTS OF BOTH REDUCTIONS AND LIMITATIONS, WHILE THE EASTERN APPROACH DOES NOT.

10. THE PRINCIPLE OF UNDIMINISHED SECURITY REQUIRES THAT ALL RELEVANT FACTORS BEARING ON THE SECURITY SITUATION OF THE PARTICIPANTS, INCLUDING THE IMPACT OF GEOGRAPHY, BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

11. THIS PRINCIPLE ALSO REQUIRES THAT THE COLLECTIVE NATURE OF WESTERN DEFENSE NOT BE INFRINGED AND THAT, IN ORDER TO AVOID CONTRACTUALIZING EASTERN ADVANTAGES, APPROXIMATE PARITY IN GROUND FORCES BE ESTABLISHED AS THE OUTCOME OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS.

12. THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THESE TALKS AND THE PRINCIPLE OF UNDIMINISHED SECURITY ARE LINKED WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF BUILDING A MORE STABLE RELATIONSHIP AND STRENGTHENING PEACE AND SECURITY IN EUROPE.

13. THE WESTERN PROPOSALS FULLY CONFORM WITH THE AGREED SUBJECT MATTER OF THE NEGOTIATIONS AND THE PRINCIPLE OF UNDIMINISHED

SECURITY.

14. IMPLEMENTATION OF THOSE PROPOSALS WOULD LEAD TO AN  
EQUITABLE OUTCOME WHICH WOULD ENHANCE STABILITY AND STRENGTHEN  
PEACE AND SECURITY FOR EUROPE AS A WHOLE.

15. THE FAILURE OF EASTERN PROPOSALS TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE  
IMPORTANT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPANTS WOULD LEAD  
TO A RESULT PERPETUATING, OR EVEN INCREASING, THE EXISTING  
SOURCES OF INSTABILITY IN CENTRAL EUROPE.

16. EASTERN PARTICIPANTS SHOULD CEASE MAKING UNWARRANTED  
CLAIMS REGARDING THE CONTENT OF THE COMMUNIQUE AND SHOULD,  
INSTEAD, BRING THEIR POSITION INTO CONFORMITY WITH IT IN ORDER  
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THAT AN AGREEMENT MAY BE REACHED.RESOR

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## Message Attributes

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